

M/053/002

Nov. 23, 1992

DOGM
MINERALS PROGRAM
FILE COPY

To: Wayne Hedberg
State of Utah
Oil Gas and Mining
3 Triad Center
Suite 350
355 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah
84180-1203

RECEIVED

NOV 30 1992

DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

FROM: Hidden Valley Water Users Association

Subject: 5 M Mining clean up, Silver Reef, M053/002 Washington
County, Utah.

Reference Your letter dated November 10, 1992.

1. The Utah State Department of Drinking Water has condemned our well. One of the options that is under consideration is to clean and filter our irrigation water. The irrigation water would have to come down the irrigation ditch. I would hope that your office would make it the highest priority to clean up the drainage that seeps from the 5 M property into our irrigation ditch.
2. Your letter requested a copy of the driller's log which is attached. Mr Bousfield has the results of the tests taken from our well and I request that you contact his office for that information. I would be happy to assist you in obtaining water samples from the well and ditch.
3. Even if we do not use the irrigation water option, I do not want our Irrigation ditch used as a drain for the seepage from the 5 M ponds. After any rain storm you can see that the 5 M ponds fill and leek/drain into our irrigation ditch. I again request that your office take action before the next irrigation season starts to prevent this drainage from going down our ditch. This is an active irrigation ditch and should not be polluted.

David Moore

attachments:

1. Driller's log.
2. Utah State drinking water letter.

Note.

attach #1 cannot find in our files
Believe the change application # is a/4462
water right # 81-1570 should be on file in
Cedar City office



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER

Norman H. Bangerter

Governor

Kenneth L. Alkema

Executive Director

Gayle J. Smith, P.E.

Director

288 North 1460 West

P.O. Box 144830

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4830

(801) 538-6159

(801) 538-6016 Fax

November 23, 1992

Dave Moore, President
Hidden Valley Water Users Association
P.O. Box 460634
Leeds, Utah 84746

Dear Mr. Moore

Re: Radiological Contamination

Radiologic samples for Gross alpha taken from the Hidden Valley Water Users Association's water system exceeds the Maximum Contamination Level of 15 Pci/l. The original sample you collected September 7, 1992 indicated that the Gross alpha reading was at 44.84 Pci/l. However, radium 226 of 3.885 did not exceed the 5 Pci/l MCL standard. Another sample consisting of two bottles from the distribution system was collected by LaVarr Webb indicated a 17.69 Pci/l average Gross alpha. After discussion with you and Mr. Webb three additional samples were taken from the distribution system. The results showed levels of 68.8, 50.8, and 61.1 which all exceed the Gross alpha maximum contamination level of 15 Pci/l.

The State's Division of Laboratory Improvements also ran Uranium which showed 49 Pci/l. This tends to indicate that most of the Gross alpha contamination is likely coming from naturally occurring uranium deposit in the area. The Division of Drinking Water has no standards for uranium but anticipates that National Standards for Uranium will be set at 20 Pci/l by EPA by May of 1993.

We note that the water system has had bacteriologic water quality violations in the months of September and October and likely will have an additional quality violation in November. In view of this, we direct you to find and eliminate the cause of the problem or install emergency disinfection facilities.

Dave Moore
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In regards to the permanent solution, the Division of Drinking Water recommends that the Hidden Valley Water System seek treatment of it's source waters for both radiologic and bacteriologic quality problems, or seek alternate sources to protect the customer against harmful levels of these contaminants. We request that you make a decision as to which direction you will peruse within 30 days of the date of this letter. Further, we request that you report each calendar quarter on your progress, until a satisfactory solution has been achieved.

Sincerely,



Gayle J. Smith
Director
Division of Drinking Water

DFH:lm

cc: Wayne Thomas, District Engineer
Southwest Utah Public Health Department
Jason Knowlton - ERR